

## Gospel Lesson for the Day

### Gospel Lesson: Gospel According to St. John 9:1-38

At that time, as Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. We must work the works of him who sent me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he"; others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age, ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe": and he worshiped him.

*Devote yourself to stillness and know that I am God* - Psalm 45:10 (LXX)

## Traverse City Orthodox Mission Church

*Traditional Worship for Modern Life*

Volume III Number 21- Sunday, 24 May 2009

### PARISH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, 24 May

**6th Sunday of Pascha.  
The Man Born Blind.**

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:15 AM Church School  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Monday, 25 May

**Third Finding of the Precious Head of the Holy Prophet,  
Forerunner and Baptist, John.**

10 AM Memorial Day Observances at Oakwood Cemetery

Tuesday, 26 May

**St. Carpos and St. Alphaeus, Apostles of the 70.**

Wednesday, 27 May

**Apodosis of Holy Pascha.**

Fast Free Day  
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers for the Feast

Thursday, 28 May

**Ascension of the Lord.**

8:00 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos

Friday, 29 May

**St. Theodosia, the Virgin-Martyr of Tyre.**

Fast Day  
Wine and Oil Allowed

Saturday, 30 May

**St. Macrina, grandmother of St. Basil the Great.**

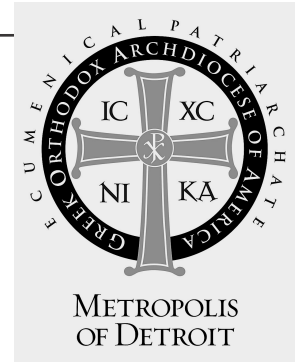
4:30 PM 9th Hour and Vespers

Sunday, 31 May

**Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council Nicea 325 AD.**

**Armed Forces Bible Drive Sunday.**

9 AM Orthros and Liturgy of St. Chrysostomos  
11:15 AM Graduate Recognition Event for Alex Batsakis  
and Samantha Dalbo  
11:30 AM Fellowship Hour  
Noon Parish-Wide Strategic Planning Meeting



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Christ is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Al-Masih qam! Χριστός Ανέστη!

**Memorial Day Events For Grand Traverse County--** Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition will sponsor Memorial Day events on Monday, 25 May beginning at 10 a.m. The keynote address will be presented by retired U.S. Army National Guard Brigadier General Mitchell LeClaire, colours presented by an honour guard from the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, 21-gun salute by Camp Grayling Rifle Squad, a spiritual reflection by the Rev. Gabe Fox from Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, and "The Gettysburg Address" recited by Mark Grinder. Jack O'Malley will serve as master of ceremonies at Oakwood Cemetery, East Eighth Street, TC, also broadcast on WTCM 580 AM; the ceremony will be followed by an open house at the American Legion, Hastings Street, TC; 922-2119.

**Feast of the Ascension This Week.** The forty days of Pascha end with the apodosis (leave taking) of the feast on Wednesday of this week. The day is marked with no fasting and liturgically the day is celebrated as the Holy Pascha itself. We bid farewell to our commemoration and welcome the feast of the Ascension of the Lord on Thursday. This is one of the twelve great feasts of the Church and as such our attendance at the holy services is expected unless there are extenuating circumstances that prohibit us from participating. On the Feast of the Ascension, the Orthodox Church does not merely commemorate an historical event in the life of Christ. On this day, the Church celebrates Christ's physical departure from the world and His glorification with God the Father. Join us for the celebration of this feast by attending the holy services. For those that are unable to attend due to health or work considerations, you are encouraged to keep the day holy by reading through the stichera and services as well as the Holy Scriptures appointed for the day. These may be found at the Archdiocesan web site, [www.goarch.org](http://www.goarch.org).

**Armed Forces Bible Drive.** The American Bible Study has recently completed a project under the leadership of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and with the direct involvement of our Metropolitan, Nicholas of Detroit as well as Fr. Bill Bartz, Capt., USN and several other Orthodox chaplains. ***The New Testament and Psalms*** was expressly printed with Orthodox servicemen and women in mind. It is a wonderful example of scholarship, beautifully illustrated with iconography and augmented by articles that address the needs of those serving in the military and trying to live out their faith. His Eminence, Metropolitan Nicholas is inviting parishes of the Metropolis to support the roll out of this new resource for military chaplains by adopting a ship, platoon, or squadron and helping to underwrite the cost of distribution of these New Testament and Psalm books. A special collection will be taken up next Sunday to be forwarded to the Metropolis for this purpose. Anyone that has relatives or friends currently serving in the military is asked to notify Fr. Iakovos so that we can make an identification of the unit to which we would like to earmark our support. Alternatively, funds will be given in general without identification of a unit. An example of this new resource is available for review in our community center for those that are interested. Please help us to reach out to those that are helping to defend us and our nation.

**High School Graduation Recognition.** Our parish will honour Alex Batsakis and Samantha Dalbo this coming Sunday as they graduate from High School. Both graduates will be remaining in the Traverse City area following graduation. Special prayers and an award will be given to the graduates at the service this coming Sunday with the coffee hour given in their honour.

**Strategic Planning Meeting Next Sunday.** Our parish will continue work on developing its strategic plan with a parish-wide meeting that will take place next Sunday following the services. This is a critical exercise that will help us to focus our attention and our resources on those projects that will help us to advance our ministry to the Grand Traverse region. We have met several times over the past months and worked on developing a vision statement and mission. We will use this meeting to hone those statements Everyone is welcome to participate and everyone's opinion will be important as we work through this exercise under the direction of Stephanie Long and Holly Olszewski of our parish. Please plan to join us for this important meeting.

**Epistle Lesson: Acts of the Apostles 16:16-34**

IN THOSE DAYS, as we apostles were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by soothsaying. She followed Paul and us, crying, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." And this she did for many days. But Paul was annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, "I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the rulers; and when they had brought them to the magistrates they said, "These men are Jews and they are disturbing our city. They advocate customs which it is not lawful for us Romans to accept or practice." The crowd joined in attacking them; and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely. Having received this charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and every one's fetters were unfastened. When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, "Men, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their wounds, and he was baptized at once, with all his family. Then he brought them up into his house, and set food before them; and he rejoiced with all his household that he had believed in God.